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'Placing learning at the heart of everything we do'
Raising Aspirations, Realising Ambition and Stimulating Curiosity

Newsletter No 8

Friday 20th December 2024

Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome to the last newsletter of 2024, I cannot believe how quickly the Autumn term has passed. As we approach the festive period, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support, it is greatly appreciated by everyone in school.

As you can see below, the children have continued to work hard whilst having many opportunities to celebrate the Christmas season together. They have responded magnificently, showing lots of calm care for each other, with staff confidently managing expectations and excitement levels so that everyone has been able to have an enjoyable and memorable time. Thank you to everyone.

Reception and Year 1

Ducklings and Goslings have enjoyed creating wonderful solar system pictures using printing blocks and paint. We all tried to think about the different sizes of the planets and the order in which they appear in relation to the sun.



This term has been all about the re-telling the story of the first Christmas – our wonderful Nativity. Learning new songs and Makaton signs, standing up on stage and projecting our voices are but a few of the many skills we have developed this term. The children have all shown great focus, perseverance and growth in their confidence. The teachers were all very proud of their final performance.

There has been a flurry of Christmassy crafts and baking in both classes. We thoroughly enjoyed making and decorating gingerbread biscuits, they smelled delicious and didn't last long.

It wouldn't be Christmas without a Panto. We were all lucky enough to see a Dick Whittington performed at school. What a fabulous show!



Pufflings have been busy exploring the solar system, we have been using paint and different size blocks to make pictures of the planets and writing about our favorite planets in the solar system. Pufflings have been getting ready for Christmas, we have been baking and decorating gingerbread biscuits, enjoying a lovely Christmas dinner and we had a Panto performance at school for all of us to watch.



Years 2 & 3

We had a great day at our Lego workshop. The children enjoyed working together to create different parts of Calne, including the leisure centre, cafés and the even the White Horse. They then came back together at the end to see what we had achieved.



In Art we have been creating cityscapes inspired by the work of Lowry. We have put together all the skills we learnt this term including perspective drawing, figure drawing and painting using warm and cool colours to create our final piece.



The children have been working hard practising a class poem and songs. On Tuesday we went to St Mary's Church and enjoyed performing them for the rest of the class and helpers.



Years 4 & 5

This term in DT we have been making our own Mardi Gras masks and head pieces. We researched the famous carnival linking with our topic 'Road Trip USA'. All three classes worked super hard with designing and making and showed great perseverance throughout the creative process.



All classes did a wonderful job at the church on Tuesday. We enjoyed performing our Christmas poems in our classes and singing all our favorite songs. Thank you to those parents who were able to help us on the day.

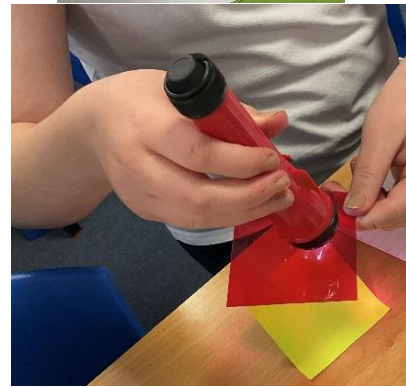
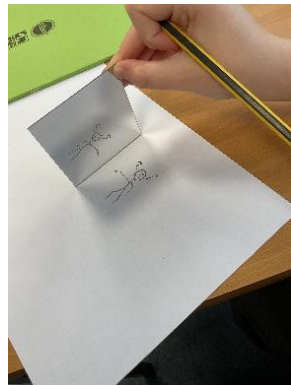
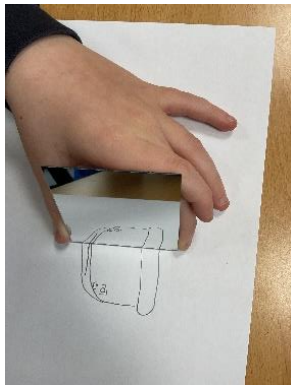


Year 6

We were able to share some things from home with the class. Here are some of the things the children brought in. We discussed why, even though they are not alive, they are important to us, often because of the memories they hold and help bring back to us. We took turns to listen, showing each other respect.



In science, the children have been exploring light. We thought about reflection, refraction, shadows and light filters. The children were also able to have a go at making a periscope, using two mirrors to bend the light through two right angles. **[Fun fact; periscope is made up of two words – peri (around, like perimeter, the measurement around an object) and scope (to see, like microscope, which helps you to see small things). So, periscope means a device to help you see around things.]**



Whole School

Here you can see some examples of the Christmas gift boxes we were able to put together due to your generosity. We have been able to gift 12 boxes to older members of our community, 10 boxes to Calne Community Gift appeal, and a huge box of donations to Calne Heart of the Community.

None of this would have been possible without the whole Priestley family – children, parents and staff – working together; a huge heartfelt thanks to you all.



Staffing Arrangements in January

There are a few staffing changes as detail below, all other classes will remain the same:

Class	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Avocet	Ms Weatherall	Ms Weatherall	Mrs Warne	Mrs Warne	Mrs Warne
Sandpiper	Mrs Iwasyszyn	Mrs Iwasyszyn	Mrs Iwasyszyn (AM) PPA (PM)	Mrs Bunton	Mrs Bunton
Teal	Mrs Faulkner	Mrs Faulkner	Mrs Faulkner	Mrs Iwasyszyn	Mrs Faulkner

I am sure you will join me in thanking Mrs Bunton and Mrs Warne for leading Sandpiper and Avocet full-time, giving the children stability and consistency following Mrs Reddy's departure and the start of Mrs Clifford's maternity leave.

Priestley & Proud and the Christmas Fayre

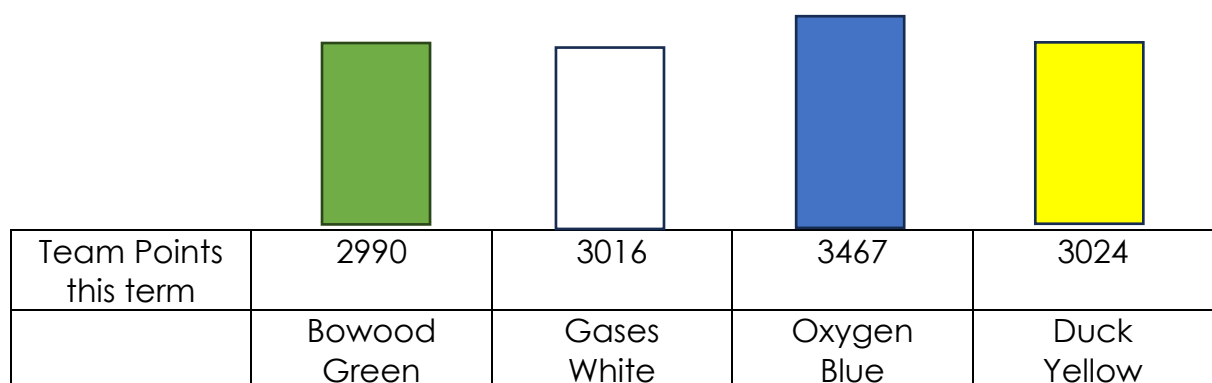
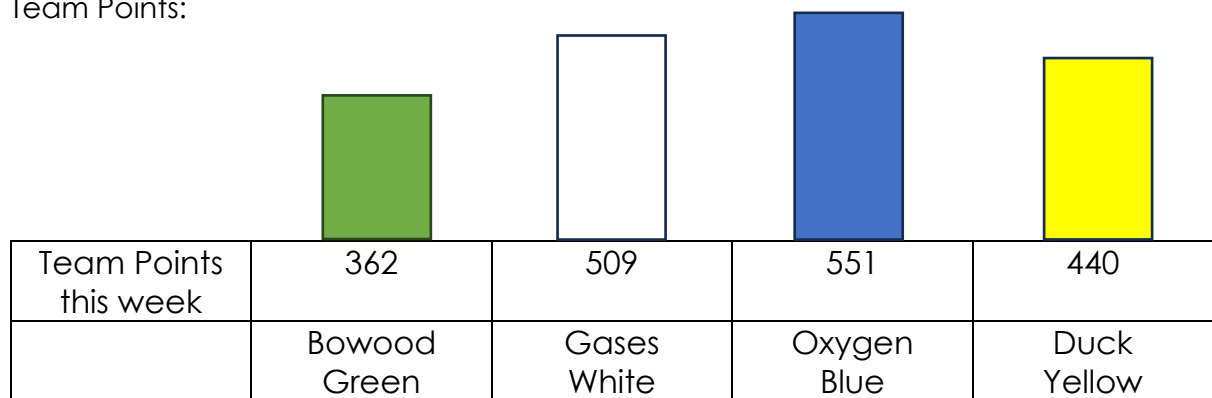
It was great to see so many of you yesterday for celebrating both the children's work and coming together as a community.

We would like to thank everyone for their generosity, whether that be in donating prizes, giving time to prepare for or attend the Fayre, or for simply spending money. We hope you had as much enjoyment as was evident on the children's faces.

The learning experiences that you saw during Priestley & Proud will benefit from the money raised at the Fayre, which was a fantastic total of **£1,288.95** – for which we thank you again.

Scores and Rewards

Team Points:



Spikey Points by Class:

Ducklings	Goslings	Pufflings	Eider	Sandpiper	Teal	Curlew	Avocet	Kingfisher	Mallard
79	0	132	308	21	48	129	916	101	116

Attendance by Class:

Ducklings	Goslings	Pufflings	Eider	Sandpiper	Teal	Curlew	Avocet	Kingfisher	Mallard
94.37	93.29	96.97	96.70	94.44	94.16	96.16	96.47	96.73	96.26

School Average 95.67%

Congratulations to Pufflings Class, who had the best attendance this week – and will be sitting on the benches in assembly after the Christmas break. Don't forget how important being in school is to let children learn and build social skills – which will help them throughout their lives.

The generosity shown during this week's activities does act as a reminder about the real meaning of Christmas, being kind and taking care of each other. Please enjoy the time you have with family and friends but remember to take a moment for yourself as all the festivities can sometimes become a little overwhelming.

We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 7th January 2025, ready for another exciting term of learning.

Season's greetings from everyone at Priestley Primary School.

L Coles

Luke Coles
Interim Headteacher